

## **Clearinghouses for Individuals with Disabilities (CFDA No. 84.030)**

### **I. Legislation**

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), P.L. 101-476, Part D, Section 633, (20 U.S.C. 1433) expired September 30, 1995; operating under the authorization of the appropriations acts.

### **II. Funding History**

<u><b>Fiscal Year</b></u>	<u><b>Appropriation</b></u>	<u><b>Fiscal Year</b></u>	<u><b>Appropriation</b></u>
1969	\$ 250,000	1987	\$1,200,000
1970	475,000	1988	1,149,000
1975	500,000	1989	1,135,000
1980	1,000,000	1990	1,479,000
1981	750,000	1991	1,525,000
1982	720,000	1992	2,000,000
1983	720,000	1993	2,162,000
1984	1,000,000	1994	2,162,000
1985	1,025,000	1995	2,162,000
1986	1,062,000	1996	1,989,000

### **III. Analysis of Program Performance**

#### **A. Goals and Objectives**

The Clearinghouses for Individuals with Disabilities Program supports three clearinghouses that (1) disseminate information and provide technical assistance to parents, professionals, and other interested parties; (2) provide information on postsecondary programs and services for individuals with disabilities; and (3) encourage students and professional personnel to pursue careers in the field of special education. The major objectives of the clearinghouses are to:

- collect, develop and disseminate information;
- provide technical assistance;
- conduct coordinated outreach activities;
- coordinate and network with other national, state and local organizations and information and referral resources;
- respond to individuals and organizations seeking information; and
- provide for the synthesis of information for its effective use by parents, professionals, individuals with disabilities, and other interested parties.

## **B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals**

### **Services Supported**

*The National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY)* provides parents, professionals, and others with current and factual information regarding the diverse issues related to the education of children and youth with disabilities. The project also provides technical assistance and promotes the involvement of individuals with disabilities, their families, volunteers, and professionals in providing information to the general public. A major emphasis of this project is to develop and disseminate, in appropriate language and media, material to assist families with low reading abilities which have children and youth with disabilities; families whose primary language is not English; and families located in isolated sectors of the country where obtaining specific information for a particular child is difficult. The clearinghouse is located at the Academy for Educational Development, Washington, D.C.

*The National Clearinghouse on Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Disabilities*, known as HEATH (Higher Education and the Handicapped) Resource Center, serves as an information exchange about educational support services, procedures, policies, adaptations, and opportunities on college and university campuses, vocational technical schools, independent career schools, adult and continuing education programs, independent living centers, and other training entities after high school for youth and adults with disabilities. The clearinghouse promotes information on the kinds of accommodations that enable full participation by students with disabilities in regular as well as specialized postsecondary programs so that these settings will be the least restrictive and most productive environment possible for each individual. *Information from HEATH* is a newsletter issued three times a year which provides information about new publications, highlights campus programs, discusses new or pending legislation and focuses on topics of concern. This is the main vehicle for the clearinghouse to keep its target audiences routinely informed. The clearinghouse is located at the American Council on Education, Washington, D.C.

*The National Clearinghouse on Professions in Special Education* collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on current and future national, regional, and state needs for special education and related services personnel; develops and disseminates information to potential special education and related services professionals concerning career opportunities, location of preparation programs, and various forms of financial assistance (such as scholarships, stipends, and allowances); improves and maintains a knowledge base concerning appropriate programs that prepare professionals in special education and related services; establishes networks of local and state education agencies and professional associations to maximize the sharing and accuracy of information about career and employment opportunities; and provides technical assistance to institutions of higher education seeking to meet state and professionally recognized standards. The clearinghouse disseminates information that will guide national efforts to systematically increase the supply of qualified special education and related services paraprofessionals and professionals from diverse backgrounds. The clearinghouse is operated by the Council for Exceptional Children, Reston, Virginia, in conjunction with the National Association of State Directors of Special Education.

## **C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness**

Performance indicators are being developed.

## **IV. Planned Studies**

None

## **V. Sources of Information**

1. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Program-Funded Activities, Fiscal Year 1995.  
(Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, 1996).
2. Program files.

## **VI. Contacts for Further Information**

Program Operations:      Hugh Berry, (202) 205-8121

Program Studies:         Susan Sanchez, (202) 401-0886